

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

DEPARTMENT 1515 CLAY STREET, SUITE 1901

OAKLAND, CA 94612

(510) 286-7000 FAX (510) 286-7037



ADDRESS REPLY TO:
PO BOX 420603
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94142-0603

September 12, 2006

Subject: Advisory Committee on Diacetyl and Chemicals in the Flavor Manufacturing Industry in California

To Whom It May Concern:

The Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) is convening an advisory meeting to consider issues involving diacetyl and other chemicals utilized in the flavoring manufacturing industry. Diacetyl, a component of butter flavoring, has been linked to a serious and sometimes fatal lung disease called *bronchiolitis obliterans*.

This advisory meeting is being called following a petition to the Cal/OSHA Standards Board for an emergency diacetyl standard. The petition, submitted by the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) and the California Labor Federation, calls for the establishment of a Permissible Exposure Limit for diacetyl as well as respiratory protection and medical surveillance. The UFCW and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) have submitted a similar petition to Federal OSHA.

You are being sent this notice because you are a stakeholder or may otherwise have an interest in participating in the advisory committee process on this issue.

This advisory meeting will be a chance for stakeholders to discuss (1) the activities that have occurred to date in California with respect to hazard control in the flavor manufacturing industry, (2) the prospect of rulemaking, and (3) how those two agendas can best fit together. This will be the beginning of an opportunity to hear from affected labor organizations, medical experts, members of the flavor manufacturing industry, and all other members of the public who have a stake in this issue.

The meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, September 28th, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** in the Elihu Harris State Building, at 1515 Clay Street in Oakland, CA in Room 1304. An agenda will be sent to you shortly.

Thank you for your interest in this project. If you have questions regarding this meeting, please call Michael Horowitz at (510) 286-7009 or Amalia Neidhart at (916) 574-1768.

Sincerely,

/S/ Len Welsh

Len Welsh
Acting Chief

ALW/mh/an